NUMB. XXIV.

THE PLAIN DEALER.

——— Micat, inter omnes,
Julium ſidus, velut, inter ignes
Luna, Minores.
Gentis humanæ pater, atque cuſtos,
Orte Saturno, tibi cura Magni
Cæſaris fatis data: tu, ſecundo Cæſare, Regnes.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12. 1724.

SIR,

HAVING obſerved, That my *Extract* of the CZAR of *RUSSIA*'s *Letter to his SON*, which you publish'd in your 20th Paper, gave a very great Surprize to the Generality of your Readers, who had form'd, upon common Rumour, an Opinion of that Prince's Death, extremely different from the Truth; I now ſend you as brief an Abſtract as poſſible, from a Relation, which was publiſh'd in *High Dutch*, by the Miniſter of a *German Court*, not likely to be partial in Favour of the *Czar*, and who was preſent, and an Eye-Witneſs of the Facts, which he publiſhes.

THE *Czar* had long inclin'd to ally himſelf with ſome powerful Family, of *Germany*, by the Marriage of his Son; whom he hop'd to reclaim from his Indolence, by the Converſation of a Princeſs of high Extraction, and a noble Education: For this Prince had, by a continual aſſociating himſelf with the vileſt Company, contracted ſuch corrupt Habits, as cou'd not fail of producing an Averſion to him, in all honeſt Minds. He was ſo far ſunk in Senſuality, that no Repreſentations, no Pains, cou'd recover him: So that the *Czar*, being, at length, by his Son's perverſe Conduct, almoſt brought to an Abhorrence of his Perſon, began to drop Intimations, That he wou'd cauſe him to be ſhav'd, for a Monk, and ſhut him up in a Convent, — The Prince's own Favourites were alarm'd at the Danger; and earneſtly entreated him to have his Welfare at Heart: and to conceal, if he cou'd not ſuppreſs, his rigorous Hatred againſt Foreigners. This diſpos'd him to fall in with the *Czar*'s Propoſition, and he was married, as is well known, to a Princeſs, of the Family of *Brunſwick Wolfenbuttel*, and Siſter to the preſent Empreſs.

BUT, after he had brought her to *Ruſſia*, he ſhew'd not the leaſt Complaiſance; nor endeavour'd, at all, to divert her. — On the contrary, I obſerv'd, That, on all Publick Occaſions, he never exchang'd a Word with her; but, induſtriouſly ſhun'd her Company. The Prince had the Apartments of the right Wing; and the Princeſs thoſe of the Left: But they ſaw each other ſcarce once a Week; and, had not the Prince conſider'd the begetting an Heir, as the Support of his own Safety, He would have made himſelf intirely inviſible to her. He even neglected the Repair of the Houſe, to that Degree, that the Princeſs lay expos'd to the Injuries of the Air, and Weather, in her own Bedchamber.

WHEN the *Czar* expoſtulated with him, concerning theſe Proceedings, he loaded *Her* with Reproaches, as if it was She, who had accus'd him; whereas, that wiſe Princeſs ſubmitted to her hard Fate, with the firmeſt Conſtancy and Reſignation; nor had any other Witneſſes of her Tears, but the Princeſs of *Eaſt-Friezland*, her Companion, and the Walls of her own Apartment. She liv'd, four Years, in this Manner, and was then ſeiz'd with an Indiſpoſition, ſo dangerous, that her Recovery was immediately deſpair'd of.

WHEN ſhe perceiv'd her End approaching, ſhe deſir'd to ſee the *Czar*, who was, at the ſame Time, indiſpos'd: But he caus'd himſelf to be carry'd to her, in a Machine, mov'd on Wheels. — The Princeſs took her Leave of him, in the moſt moving Expreſſions; and recommended her two Children to his Care and Protection; embracing them, in the moſt tender manner poſſible; and almoſt melting away in Tears. Then, ſhe ſent for her Servants, who, to the Number of two hundred Perſons, and upwards, lay proſtrate, in the Anti-chamber, imploring Heaven to aſſiſt their dying Miſtreſs, in her laſt Agonies. — She comforted, admoniſhed, and gave them her Bleſſing: — The Phyſicians would ſtill be preſſing her, to take ſome Medicines; but ſhe threw the Glaſſes from her, crying out, with great Emotion, — *Do not torture me any more.* — *Permit me to die in Quiet.* — *For I am reſolved to live no longer.* — She expir'd, in fervent Prayer, and departed an unfortunate Life, before ſhe was quite one and twenty Years old.

IT was ſoon after the Funeral of this Princeſs, that the *Czar* gave that admirable Letter, which you publish'd in a late PAPER, into the Hands of his Son. And, what follows, is the *unequal* Anſwer, which he had the Mortification to receive from him.

The ANSWER of Prince ALEXEI, *of* RUSSIA, *to the LETTER of the* CZAR, *his* Father.

Moſt Clement LORD, *and* FATHER,

'I HAVE read your Majeſty's PAPER, and have Nothing to reply to it; but, that, if your Majeſty will deprive me of the Succeſſion to the Crown of *Ruſſia*, by Reaſon of my Incapacity, Your *Will be done*. I do not think my ſelf fit for the Government: The Rule of ſo many Nations, requires a more vigorous Man than I am — I will not pretend to the Succeſſion, for the future, of which I take God to Witneſs; and ſwear it, upon my Soul; deſiring Nothing more than bare Maintenance, during Life.

Your moſt humble SERVANT,
And SON,
ALEXEI.

[Price Two Pence.]

MANY further Attempts the *Czar* made, on his Son's Obſtinacy: But the Conſequence of them all; and of his pretended Reſignation, was his Flight to a Foreign Protection, and a plunging himſelf into thoſe High Crimes, which are particulariz'd, in his Sentence.

THE *Czar*, upon this extraordinary and melancholy Occaſion, convok'd a High Court of Juſtice; conſiſting of all the *Chief*, of the *States* — He lay, for eight Days, ſucceſſively, many Hours, on his Knees; imploring God, with Tears, to inſpire him with Sentiments, becoming his double Duty — as a *Monarch*, and as a *Father*. — The Prince was brought into Court, under Guard of four Officers; and proceeded againſt, in a Manner, too tedious. and circumſtantial, to be particulariz'd, in ſo ſhort a Compaſs.

THE Court, upon the whole, having pronounc'd a formal Sentence, and condemn'd the Prince to Death, the violent Surprize, and Terror of his Mind, and the diſorderly Conflict, and Fluctuation, of his Paſſions, threw him into an Apoplectick Fit. The *Czar* no ſooner heard, that he was in this Danger, and that he was deſirous to ſee him, but he viſited his dying Son, with the moſt viſible Marks of Pity, and a Proof of Paternal Tenderneſs.

THE Prince, at Sight of his Father, burſt out into Tears; and, with Hands, rais'd, and folded, ſaid, 'He 'had grievouſly offended the Majeſty of Almighty God, 'and the Goodneſs of the *Czar* —; that he had not 'even a Wiſh, to recover from his Indiſpoſition, be-'ing unworthy to live longer. He begg'd his Majeſty, 'for God's ſake, only to take from him the Curſe, he 'had laid on him, at *Moskow*: to forgive him all his 'heavy Crimes; to impart him his Bleſſing; and, to 'cauſe Prayers to be put up, for his Soul.

DURING theſe moving Words, the *Czar*, and the whole Court, almoſt melted away, in Tears. — His Majeſty return'd him a moſt noble, and pathetic, Anſwer: He repreſented, in a few, of the mildeſt Words, he cou'd ſelect, all his *Length* of Offences; and, then, gave him, in the moſt touching Manner poſſible, his Forgiveneſs, and his Bleſſing: After which, they parted, with Abundance of Tears, and Lamentations, on both Sides.

VERY late, in the Night, came a Meſſenger, to acquaint the *Czar*, That the Prince was extremely deſirous, once more, to ſee his Father. And his Majeſty had juſt ſtept into his Sloop, to go over to the Fortreſs, when another Meſſenger brought News, That the Prince was, already, expir'd. — He was depoſited in the new Burying-Vault, of the *Czariſh* Family; and plac'd next the Coffin of his late Conſort. — The *Czar*, among the Mourners, carried a lighted Wax-Taper, in his Hand; and was obſerv'd to be bath'd in Tears, during the Proceſſion; and, in particular, at the Church Service; where the Prieſt had choſe, for the Text of his Funeral Sermon, theſe Words of the mournful *David*, — *O! my Son Abſalom!* — *my Son!* — *my Son, Abſalom!*

YOU ſee, Sir! how different this Great Monarch's Conduct, in ſo nice, and trying, a Circumſtance, really was, from the Clouds, which *Rumour* blew upon it, to ſhade, and blacken, an *unequal'd Character!* — The *Roman Fierceneſs* has been *celebrated*, in Men, who not only *condemn'd* their Sons; but ſtood by, and *ſaw* 'em executed, in the moſt ſevere, and ſhameful, Manner, for the Love, and Safety of their Country. Yet there was a *Brutal Inflexibility*, and a Kind of *Politic Neceſſity*, in the Actions of thoſe *Roman Fathers!* But this prodigious, *modern*, Prince, under no Influence of Fear, Dependence, or Obligation, *choſe* to ſet aſide his *own Blood*, for the future Glory of his *People*! Only, with this fine Difference from the *Roman*, That, what was, *there*, done, with a *Stoicism*, that gave Suſpicion of Inſenſibility, was, *here*, adorn'd with *Pity*, and the moſt manifeſt Strugglings of an amiable *Weakneſs*, that convinc'd his Subjects how *Dear* their Proſperity muſt be, to a Sovereign, who cou'd, thus, provide for it, by a Sacrifice, againſt his Nature, even of his private, and domeſtic, Comfort!

HAVING ſhewn, in the foregoing Inſtances, the *afflicted* Side of the *Czar*'s Behaviour: It is but juſt, that I ſhou'd change the Light, and ſurprize you, by a View of that unſhaken *Firmneſs*, with which he regarded the *Danger* of the Conſpiracy; while the Reflection, *Who was the Author of it!* gave him ſo moving a *Miſery*!

UPON the Examination, and Confeſſions, of that infinite Number of Confederates, who were engag'd in the Prince's Projects, it appear'd, That the Defection was ſo wide, and ſo general, that many of his neareſt, and moſt truſted Servants, were embark'd in it; and ſuch alſo, in whoſe Hands lay Great Part of his Wealth, and Power; ſo that he was congratulated in Form, by the Ambaſſadors of Foreign Princes, upon his Diſcovery, and Prevention, of ſo endangering a Combination. To which, he gave this noble Anſwer — *Dangers always are ſtrong, if they are weakly reſiſted: — Where a Fire meets with Straw, it ſoon ſpreads, and burns thorough it. — But, if Iron lies in its Way, it falls back, and is extinguiſh'd!*

ADVERTISEMENTS.

EVAN DAVIES Removed from the *Blew Poſts*, and *Harp*, in *Chancery-Lane*, to *Montgomery* Court, behind the *Bagnio*, in the ſame Lane, while his Houſe is Rebuilding, but continues the Uſual Entertainment, at his Cellar; where Perſons may be furniſhed with any Quantity of Right *Herefordſhire* or *Southam* Cyder; *Hotwell*, *Bath*, and Right *German* Spaw-Waters.

May 1. 1724.

PROPOSALS for Printing by Subſcription,

MEMOIRS of the Reigns of *Francis* II. and *Charles* IX. of *France*. Containing a particular Account of the *Three Firſt Civil Wars* Raiſed and Carried on by the *Hugonots* in that Kingdom. Wherein the moſt Remarkable *Paſſages* in the Reigns of King *Henry* VIII. of *England*, Queen *Elizabeth*, and the Unfortunate *Mary*, Queen of *Scots*, are ſet in a True Light. By *Michael de Caſtelnau*, Lord of *Mauviſiere* and *Concreſſant*, Baron of *Joinville*, Earl of *Beaumont Le Roger*, &c. Who was Ambaſſador for *Ten Years* at the Court of Queen *Elizabeth*, and principally concern'd in the *Secret Tranſactions* of thoſe Times. Done into *Engliſh* by a *Gentleman*, and publiſh'd for his *Benefit*. The Price to Subſcribers *One Guinea*; Half to be Paid down, and the other Half on Delivering the Book. The Book is now in the Preſs, and will be ready to be Delivered to Subſcribers in Two Months; Publick Notice of which will be given in the *News-Papers*. Subſcriptions are taken in by *W. Mears*, at the *Lamb*, without *Temple-Bar*; *S. Tooke*, and *B. Motte*, at the *Midle-Temple-Gate*, *Fleetſtreet*; *J. Stagg*, in *Weſtminſter-Hall*; And by *S. Richardſon*, at his Houſe in *Salisbury-Court*, *Fleetſtreet*.

Printed for *J. Roberts*, in *Warwick-Lane*. Where *Letters* and *Advertiſements* are taken in.